

60,130-1357
01MRA0039REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 4-19 are currently pending. Claims 1, 4 and 16 stand rejected, claims 17-19 are objected to, and claims 5-15 are allowed. The following remarks place this application in condition for allowance or, in the alternative, in better form for appeal. Entry of this Amendment is therefore respectfully requested.

§ 102 rejection

Claims 1, 4 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by German patent 19847080 to Sesselmann ("Sesselmann"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Office Action asserted that Applicant's arguments are more limiting than that of the claims and that the word "for" fails to positively recite the claimed invention (p. 2). Applicant respectfully disagrees. The term "end stop" clearly defines a structure disposed at an end of a cable (see, e.g., specification page 9, line 30 to page 10, line 23) according to its broadest reasonable interpretation. MPEP § 2111. The term "end stop" obviously refers to a stop structure on an end of the cable.

As noted throughout prosecution, the channel 24 shown in Sesselmann is not attached to the cable 5 and therefore does not restrict cable movement in any way, much less act as an end stop. Figures 2a through 2c show that the ends 6, 7 of the cable 5 are left free from any end stop structures. The channel 24 is not at an end of a cable, nor is it a stop structure, nor is it operatively coupled to the cable (e.g., as a stopping structure). The Office Action is not permitted to ignore the clear meaning of the claim language to support an anticipation rejection. Because Sesselmann fails to show the claimed end stop, it does not anticipate claims 1, 4 and 16. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 5-15 and 17-19 contain allowable subject matter. As noted above, however, all of the pending claims are patentable without any amendment because none of the cited references show the claimed end stop.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, TC 3600, After Final, (703) 872-9327, on Oct 27, 2003.


Beth A. Beard

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